in new monopoly drugs not coming under control. In this context, it may be mentioned that NPPA has not become functional due to problems of administrative nature, which are being sorted out. However, a decision has been taken to initiate the process of updation of list of drugs under price control.

(c) Studies conducted for large selling formulations, including anti-malarial and hormonal drugs, reveal that while there is some increase in prices, there are cases of price decrease also. The price increase is not across the board and abnormal.

Increase in the price of bulk drugs, excipients, utilities, cost of packaging, fluctuation in foreign exchange rate for imported formulations, etc. have been found to be the reasons for price rise. Further, new introductions in any particular therapeutic category are invariably costlier than the existing drugs in that category for the reasons of R & D cost, initial marketing costs etc.

Privatisation of Modern Food Industries

2059. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Modern Food Industries Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) the profits made by the undertaking during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission has recommended 100% disinvestment of Government of India's shareholding in Modern Food Industries Limited. The Govt. has taken no such decision.

(c) The profits after interest and depriciation made by the undertaking during the last three years are indicated below :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	65.19
1994-95	573.99
1995-96	1113.07

[Translation]

Bullish Resistance to Bovine Harmone

2060. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bullish resistance to bovine harmone" appearing in the *Times of India* dated June 19, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) whether the drug banned in many countries has been permitted in India;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(e) whether Indian Dairy scientists have fully studied the implications of the use of BGH;

(f) if so, the finding thereof ; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering approval Committee, Ministry of Environment and Forests have given conditional environment clearance for the commercial use of Bovine Growth Hormone in some selected states. Drug Controller General of India is yet to accord approval for commercial use. Any use of this hormone will depend on its availability, price and return in terms of benefits to users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The efficacy and safety aspects of the use of BGH on crossbred cows and buffaloes have been studied in limited laboratory and field studies under Indian conditions in controlled experiments at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. The increase in milk production due to BGH in cow and buffalo was similar without any observed adverse side effects on the animal health and production.

(g) The Government is considering various steps regarding issues relating to the use of this hormone in India. Work in assessing the benefits in administration of the compound to animals is also in progress at State Agricultural University in Maharashtra.

SC/ST Posts

2061. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes lying vacant throughout the country in the Ministry/Department, category-wise;